KING'S GAME
ORIGINS
CHAPTER
4
STORY BY NOBUAKI KANAZAWA
ART BY J-TA YAMADA

AH
AH
THIS CAN'T BE!
WHA...
WHY...?
WE FOLLOWED THE KING'S ORDERS!

THERE WAS ONE FOR EACH VILLAGER!
WOBBLE
I COUNTED THE HORNETS.
WHA...?!
?!

WAIT, SO THEY DIED YESTERDAY?
1...
2...
3...
OR DID THEY START FIGHTING BECAUSE THEY WERE PACKED INTO SUCH A SMALL CAGE?
DID THEY JUST UP AND DIE...?
BUT IF THREE OF THEM DIED BEFORE MIDNIGHT...
WE NEEDED TO KEEP THEM ALIVE UNTIL THE DATE CHANGED!

DAD!
DAD, WAKE UP!
THAT MEANS TWO MORE PEOPLE HAVE BEEN HACKED UP!

MURMUR
MURMUR
KACHIK
...!
RI-
RIGHT!
KAZU-NARI, GET BACK INSIDE!
LOCK THE DOOR AND DON'T COME OUT!

MURMUR
MURMUR
HOW COULD ANYONE DO THAT TO SACHIKO-SAN...?
HURK
IT'S INHUMAN...
CHOPPED UP..
ACCORDING TO THE KING'S LETTER, THERE'LL BE TWO MORE..
NATSUKO...
MURMUR
MURMUR

WAIT A SEC...
GASP
WHEW
THANK GOD...NATSUKO'S ALL RIGHT...
GRANDMA..
SHE HASN'T WOKEN UP IN ALL THIS COMMOTION
TWO MORE.

SHH
HMM
TWO MORE PEOPLE!
PEEK
SNORE
SNORE
WHEW... GRAND MA'S OKAY...
WHEW...
SHIVER!
BUT WHO...?
I KNOW THERE'RE MORE...

I HAVE TO SEE THEM WITH MY OWN EYES!
CLENCH
YUU-JI...
RYUU-JI...
MICHI-KO...
KAZU-YA...!
BUT I CAN'T JUST SIT AROUND WITH ALL THIS MAD-NESS GOING ON.
DAD TOLD ME TO STAY INSIDE TODAY.
SLIP
PLEASE, BE ALIVE!

KAZU-
NARI!
WHAT THE HELL'S GOING ON? THE VIL-LAGE IS IN AN UPROAR AGAIN.
MICHIKO!
THANK GOD YOU'RE OKAY!
CLASP
W-WHOA, WHAT'S ALL THIS ABOUT?
THE KING'S GAME ISN'T OVER...

SACHIKO-SAN IS DEAD.
NO... WAS SHE...
...CHOP-PED?
NOD

THREE OF THE HOR-NETS IN THE CAGE WERE DEAD WHEN I LET THEM OUT...
SO IT'S LIKELY TWO MORE PEOPLE DIED
I'VE BEEN RUN-NING AROUND MAKING SURE EVERYONE WAS SAFE—
NO WONDER YOU WERE RELIEVED TO SEE ME.
AREN'T YOU MORE WORRIED ABOUT NATSUKO, THOUGH?

.....
BESIDES, I ALREADY SAW HER, SHE'S FINE.
I WAS WORRIED ABOUT YOU TOO!
HMM..
SHE WAS WITH THE PEOPLE GATHERED OUTSIDE SACHIKO-SAN'S HOUSE.
WE HEARD WHAT HAPPENED!
EVERYONE'S SUPPOSED TO GO TO THE TOWN HALL.
HEY!
KAZUNARI! MICHIKO!

I'M SURE MOST OF YOU ARE ALREADY AWARE...
5 DEAD, 27 REMAIN...
WEDNESDAY AUGUST 10, 8:24 A.M.
TAKEDA SACHIKO. TOMINAGA MICHIKO...
...AND SAITOU TAKASHI HAVE PASSED AWAY.
MURMUR

ELDER.
FSSHHH
I HAVEN'T HEARD ALL THE DE-TAILS...
STARE
...BUT FROM WHAT I UNDER-STAND IT WASN'T NATURAL CAUSES.
I SERIOUSLY DOUBT HE JUST DROPPED DEAD.
BUT TA-KASHI WAS A DECADE YOUNGER THAN ME
SACHIKO AND MICHIKO WERE GETTING ON IN YEARS...
IT'S TRUE, NONE OF THEM DIED OF ILL-NESS.
THEY... WERE.

ANYWAY, THE POLICE WILL BE HERE SOON.
MURMUR
MURMUR
NO ONE IS TO LEAVE THE VIL-LAGE UNTIL THEY ARRIVE.
ELDER...
MUMBLE
MUMBLE
WHAT ABOUT SUZUYO-CHAN AND DAIKI-KUN'S WAKES?
WE NEED TO TAKE CARE OF THEM, TOO.
R-RIGHT. THANK YOU...
SANAE, YOU'RE TO HELP YUMIKO-SAN AND YOSHIE-SAN...
...WITH THE NEC-ESSARY PREPA-RATIONS.
OKAY.

AH!
!
KING'S GAME?
GRRR
THAT ABHORRENT PRANK LETTER--
I WISH WE KNEW WHY ALL THIS WAS HAPPENING...
YUUJI TOLD ME ABOUT THE KING'S GAME, BUT—
I SINCERELY DOUBT IT HAD ANYTHING TO DO WITH THE THREE DEATHS—
SHFF
AND SUZUYO AND DAIKI!
ELDER!
YUUJI...

HOW MUCH MORE PROOF DO YOU NEED?!
THESE LETTERS AREN'T JUST PRANKS!
IF YOU DON'T OBEY THE KING'S ORDERS...
...YOU DIE!
ざわ ざわ MURMUR
ざわ ざわ MURMUR

YUUJI!
I'VE HAD ENOUGH OF THIS FOOLISHNESS—
KYUUZOU-SAN!
WHAT'S THIS ABOUT A "KING'S GAME"?!
RABBLE
DO YUUJI AND THE KIDS KNOW SOMETHING WE DON'T?
RABBL
I THOUGHT SUZUYO AND DAIKI COMMITTED SUICIDE!
ざわ ざわ RABBLE RABBLE

*YONAKI TOWN HALL

VWWWM
VWWWM
INCLUDING THE KING'S GAME LETTERS.

*CARD: NORTH YOSHIDA POLICE
HONDA KAZUNARI AND TANAKA YUUJI, IS IT?
MY NAME'S DOUJIMA, OUT OF THE STATION IN NORTH YOSHIDA.
WHY'RE WE THE ONLY ONES IN HERE?
GLANCE
GLANCE
ER...
YES SIR.
YUUJI FOUND THE FIRST ONE...
...AND WE FOUND THE SECOND ONE TOGETHER.
YOUR LEADER SHOWED ME THOSE KING'S GAME LETTERS..
...AND TOLD ME YOU TWO FOUND THEM.

HMM.
YESSIR.
AND THEY WERE BOTH IN YOUR MAILBOX,
CORRECT, YUUJI-KUN?
WHAT TIME DID YOU FIND THAT FIRST LETTER, YUUJI-KUN?
OH— UMM..
AROUND EIGHT O'CLOCK, THE MORNING OF AUGUST 8TH, I THINK.
ERR, SIR.
I DON'T GET IT.
GLANCE
KYUUZOU-SAN MUST'VE TOLD HIM ALL THIS ALREADY.
IT'S LIKE HE'S CONFIRMING OUR STORY.

WE FOUND THE SECOND LETTER AROUND NINE IN THE MORNING ON THE 9TH, RIGHT, KAZUNARI?
GASP
Y-YEAH. I THINK SO. DUNNO HOW LONG IT'D BEEN IN THERE, THOUGH
AND TODAY?
THERE WAS NO LETTER TODAY.
I SEE...
SLIP
THEN THIS...

BA
...IS NUMBER THREE.
DUM!!